



QUARTERLY

THE MILWAUKEE JUSTICE CENTER

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ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

Page I:

What's New, Autumn 2013

MJC Moves to New
Temporary Location,
Buildout Begins

Page II:

Court Fire, Shutdown
Reduces Clients Seen at
MJC

MJC Mobile Legal Clinic
Ready for New Year, New
Places

Page III:

Volunteer Spotlight:
Bryant Park

Tip of the Scale: Correcting
Birth Certificate Names

Page IV:

MJC Adds Justin A. Metzger
to the Family

THE MILWAUKEE JUSTICE CENTER
Milwaukee County Courthouse
901 North 9th Street, Rm. G9
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What's New, Autumn 2013

By: Angela Schultz

In November the MJC staff pulled together and moved to our temporary space in Room 511. This change and the eventual move back to our permanent home in G-9 makes me think of the famous quote from Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Karr, "the more things change, the more they stay the same."

While nothing is permanent, and a change of this type comes with some challenges, this transition has been an affirmation of the strengths of our partners.

Our volunteers quickly adapted to the new space and have continued serving people at the same heavy volume. Members of the community seeking our services quickly found us.

Our gracious neighbors on the fifth floor have welcomed us and have remained flexible. Thanks to our partners and friends, the Milwaukee Justice Center services have remained steady as we create access to justice inroads from any space available. ●



Atty. Angela Schultz
MU Pro Bono Director

MJC Moves to New, Temporary Location, Buildout Begins

By: Justin A. Metzger

After more than a year of planning, proposals, and waiting, the big day finally arrived on November 18, 2103. The Milwaukee Justice Center packed up all of its gear from its long-time home in Room G9 of the Milwaukee County Courthouse, and moved to temporary digs 6 floors above in room 511.

Everything was in preparation for the long-awaited renovation of the entire G9 area to provide better and expanded services to litigants, attorneys, and anyone else needing assistance navigating the Milwaukee County

Court System.

In the new plans, the Milwaukee Justice Center will occupy the South End of the area, with permanent floorspace, offices, and fixtures befitting a permanent need in our community.

As a result of Milwaukee

County Clerk of Circuit Court John Barrett's move to digitize court records, the Milwaukee County Circuit Court Records Center, which consumed the rest of G9, will shrink its physical footprint to just a counter in the East-Central section of G9. All the stacks and files that consumed G9, and most of the Clerk of Courts' Office Mezzanine have been scanned and/or moved off-site.

The newly-opened space in the North End will go to the Legal Resource Center. Their move will double their current floorspace. ●



Court Fire, Shutdown Reduces Clients Seen at MJC

By: Justin A. Metzger

After having to close up shop for two weeks during the busiest month of the year, and experience limited service (and requests from Milwaukee County officials to steer clear of the courthouse if possible), numbers of client visits to the MJC are down for the year.

The July 6th electrical fire, which started in the basement of the courthouse, shut the entire courthouse for days, and caused most offices, including the MJC, to offer limited services for the

MJC Mobile Legal Clinic Ready for New Year, New Places

The initial outings for the Mobile Legal Clinic in the fall of 2013 have been smooth and have been a positive experience for volunteers and clients. After an initial date at the John C. Cudahy YMCA at 91st and Brown Deer Road the Mobile Legal Clinic moved to the Woodlands Resource Center, just across the street. The move allowed the clinic services to be stationed more closely to the residential area that it was meant to serve.

Michael Best and Friedrich, LLP has

remainder of the month.

In July alone, the service outage cut MJC help rates by almost 50% during our busiest month, and another 13% drop in August. This after being 7% ahead of 2012 before the fire. ●

By: Mary Ferwerda

collaborated with the MJC to staff the bus with volunteer attorneys throughout the fall in addition to four other MJC attorneys to help handle any conflicts of interest. These attorney volunteers arrived on Mobile Legal Clinic Saturdays and were assisted by eager Marquette Law students who had heard of this new project during their volunteer training in September.

These teams of attorneys and law students provided services to a total of 18 clients during the fall.

The majority of clients were residents of the Woodlands or near neighborhoods. Most of the issues handled included housing, bankruptcy, estate, and family law.

The Mobile Legal Clinic received many positive mentions in the press, including a front-page story from the *Milwaukee Post*, a feature story from Fox 6 News (WITI-TV), and two pieces from the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*.

In addition to clinic outings, the Mobile Legal Clinic vehicle was present at two Milwaukee Bar Association events for the attendees to tour.

In the Spring, the Mobile Legal Clinic will be reaching out to new locations, including the Parklawn YMCA on Sherman and Congress, and will partner with the Milwaukee Bar Association's "Law Day" event in May. ●

Volunteer Spotlight: Bryant Park



By: Justin A. Metzger

Bryant Park, Marquette University Law School 3L

Bryant Park, A Marquette 3L and Milwaukee-area native, serves as the student coordinator of the Marquette Volunteer Legal Clinic at the Milwaukee Justice Center. He also happens to be the 2013 recipient of the Milwaukee Bar Association's Pro-Bono Student of the Year award.

"I didn't know what it was when I got the e-mail," Bryan said. "There's always an award dinner every year at the law school and that's what I thought it was. Then Angela [Schultz] came up to me at one of the clinics and that's how I found out what it was."

"During the ceremony, I think my speech went very well. Everyone laughed at my jokes, so it was good."

Why did you choose Marquette Law?

My family is here, first and foremost. My dad is a [mechanical engineering] professor at Marquette. I've always had a connection to Marquette, and grew up cheering for Dwayne Wade while he was here. I like the whole message of,

"I've always been a firm believer that those that are more fortunate, more educated, put in a lot of hard work, but there's also a lot of luck."

it's not just education, but it's community. It felt like home. It is home.

What brought you to the Milwaukee Justice Center?

Location! It's really close to the law school. And the staff and everyone are very passionate about what they're doing here, as well as very helpful and friendly.

There are a lot of clients and issues. I saw it as a learning experience as how to work with people who are already having a difficult time in the courthouse.

What's been rewarding about your experience at the MJC?

In undergrad at Minnesota, I did a lot of community service there. There's a lot of Somali refugees, and there was a lot

of injustice there. So when I came here, I didn't know much of Milwaukee outside my own experience, so I came here to see more.

Beyond that, seeing the things you learn in the classroom being applied. Seeing the issues and issue spotting, dealing with *real* problems and not just the hypothetical problems of law school.

What's been the most challenging thing about volunteering at the MJC?

It's understanding that a lot of the clients are coming in already frustrated with the legal system, and we often have to deal with the brunt of their frustrations.

Why do you feel pro-bono work is important?

I've always been a firm believer that those that are more fortunate, more educated, put in a lot of hard work, but there's also a lot of luck.

I've been taught by my parents that those who aren't in as good of a spot in life sometimes just aren't as fortunate. ●

Tip of the Scale: Correcting Birth Certificate Names

By: Ayame D.C. Metzger

Not all litigants seeking a name change need to go through a court proceeding. Often, there is an easier answer:

If under the age of one:

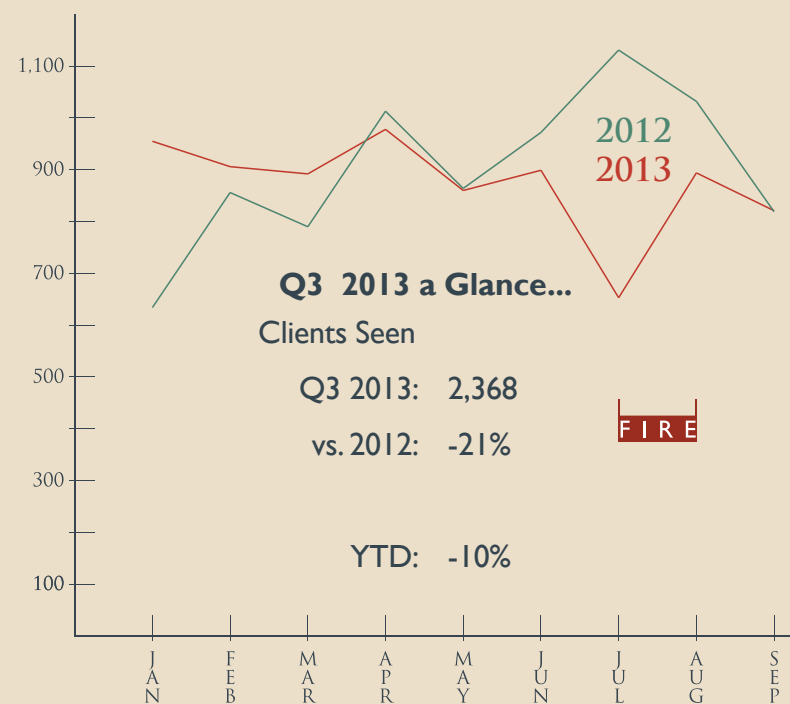
Litigants can request a name change for a child under 1 year of age in Rm. 103 of the Milwaukee County Courthouse (Vital Statistics Office). The request is free, but the new certificate is \$20. Both parents must sign the request unless there is no father on the birth certificate and no paternity proceedings have taken place.

If client was divorced:

If the client requested the right to go back to a former surname, they just need to bring a copy of their MSA and Findings of Fact to the DMV and Social Security Admin office. Remember, this is only to go back to a *previous* legal surname. But if they want an entirely *new* name, they must go through the formal name-change process.

If the client is a newly naturalized citizen:

These clients can use their naturalization certificate as their new identity document. They can use that to get their name changed at the DMV and Social Security office. ●





MJC Adds Justin A. Metzger to the Family

By: Dawn R. Caldart

Though he's been around, helping the Milwaukee Justice Center for almost a year as a temporary employee (and a volunteer before that), Justin A. Metzger was officially hired by Milwaukee County in September. He will split his time with the Milwaukee County Clerk of Court's Office and the Milwaukee Justice Center as a Network Tech Specialist.

"It's definitely a challenging pair of roles," Justin said. "But the work gives me the opportunity to both flex my creative muscle, and scratch my problem-solving itch. It's a uniquely fulfilling role to play."

Justin comes from the broadcasting field, most recently working as a newscaster for WTMJ-AM (Newsradio 620), and previously working news-related roles in Madison, Chicago, and Southern Indiana. He holds a Master's Degree in Journalism from Indiana University (2010), and a Bachelor's Degree in

Mass Communications from Illinois State University (2004).

"I've found both a knack and enjoyment in writing and designing. Or, simply, I've found sincere enjoyment in telling stories, and the Milwaukee Justice Center has a compelling and fulfilling story to tell," Justin says. "And I've also found enjoyment in being awake during daylight hours, something I rarely had the opportunity to enjoy in my previous positions. I have a lot of Vitamin D to catch back up on."

Justin lives in Saveland Park with his wife, his 6-month-old son Emmett, his dog Addison, and his two cats, Ike and Morimoto.



Family Law Clinic Hours: Brief Legal Advice Clinic Hours:

Monday - Wednesday
8:30am - 12:00pm
1:00pm - 4:00pm

Thursday - Friday
8:30am - 12:00pm

Thursday - Friday
2:00pm - 4:00pm

To Make an Appointment:
(414) 278-2912
(Divorce Part 2 only)

MJC Executive Director:

Dawn R. Caldart, J.D.

MJC Legal Director:

Ayame D.C. Metzger, J.D.

Attorney Supervisor

Mary Ferwerda, J.D.

Clerical Specialist:

Janelle Schmidt

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Thank you to all of our
volunteers and supporters!